

HOUSE BILL 962

By Slater

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
relative to secondary education.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Final exam" means a comprehensive assessment designed by an LEA to measure proficiency of the academic standards for a course provided by the LEA for which there is no end-of-course assessment; and

(2) "Qualifying score" means the score set by an LEA that a student must achieve on a final exam to earn credit for the course for which the final exam is administered.

(b) An LEA that operates one (1) or more high schools may grant a high school student credit for a course offered by the student's high school in which the student is not enrolled, but for which the student attains a qualifying score on the course's final exam. An LEA that operates one (1) or more high schools shall provide each high school student the opportunity to take a final exam for a course each semester in which the LEA offers a course for which the LEA has developed a final exam. A student may only take a final exam once per course for purposes of this section.

(c) High school credit earned pursuant to this section must count toward the high school graduation requirements established by the state board of education pursuant to § 49-6-6001(a). If a student receives a qualifying score on a final exam, then the

student's score must be included in the student's overall grade point average in the same manner as if the student enrolled in, and successfully completed, the course.

(d) The department of education shall develop guidance for LEAs operating one (1) or more high schools to use when setting qualifying scores for final exams. The department shall make the guidance available to LEAs no later than July 1, 2023.

(e) A final exam administered for purposes of this section shall not affect the evaluation of a teacher, principal, school, or LEA.

(f) Each LEA that operates one (1) or more high schools shall adopt a policy on the implementation of this section, including, but not limited to, when and how to administer final exams for students seeking course credit pursuant to this section.

(g) An LEA that operates one (1) or more high schools shall report the following information to the department of education at the end of each school year:

(1) The number of final exams administered during the school year;

(2) The courses for which final exams were administered; and

(3) The number of students that received a qualifying score on each final exam administered for purposes of this section.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2023-2024 school year and each school year thereafter.